

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below:

1. (amended) A conjugate which is useful for the treatment of prostate cancer which comprises a cytotoxic agent attached to an oligopeptide, wherein the oligopeptide comprises a sequence of amino acids that is selectively proteolytically cleaved by free prostate specific antigen and wherein the means of attachment is through a hydroxyalkyl-amino chemical linker which is optionally substituted,

and wherein the cytotoxic agent is a vinca alkaloid cytotoxic agent;

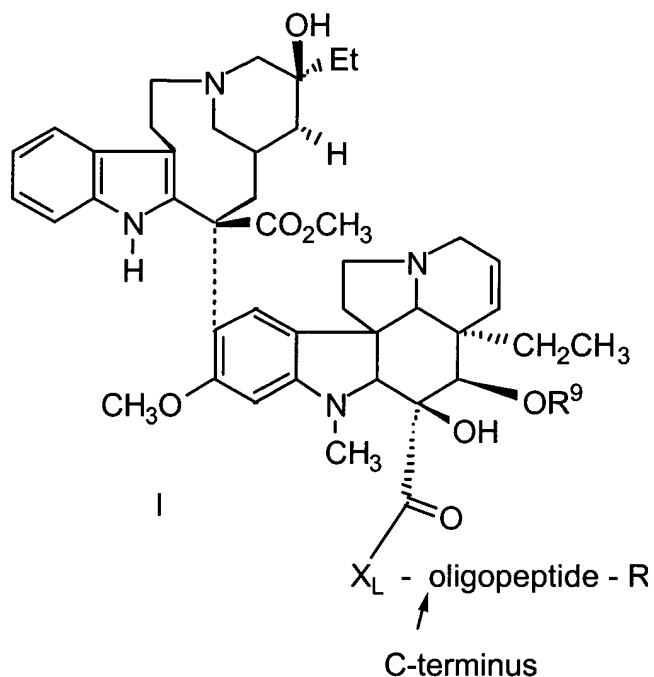
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) The conjugate according to Claim 1 wherein the oligopeptide is attached to the chemical linker by an ester bond with that bond comprising the hydroxyl moiety of the chemical linker.

3. cancelled

4. (amended) The conjugate according to Claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein the cytotoxic agent is selected from vinblastine and 4-desacetylvinblastine.

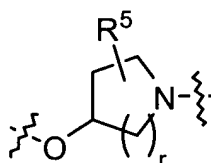
5. (original) A conjugate of the formula I:



wherein:

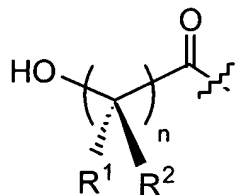
oligopeptide is an oligopeptide which is specifically recognized by the free prostate specific antigen (PSA) and is capable of being proteolytically cleaved by the enzymatic activity of the free prostate specific antigen,

X_L is selected from -NH - (CR³₂)_u (CR⁴₂)_v - O - and

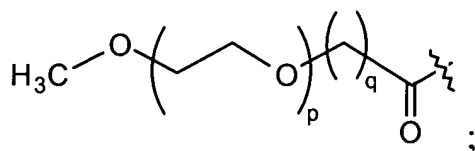


R is selected from

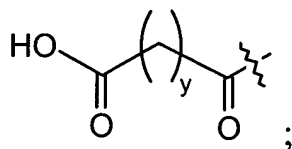
- a) hydrogen,
- b) -(C=O)R^{1a},
- c)



d)



e)



- f) ethoxysquarate; and
g) cotininyll;

R¹ and R² are independently selected from:

- hydrogen,
- unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted heterocycle, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, halogen, C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl, R⁶O-, R⁶C(O)NR⁶-, (R⁶)₂NC(O)-, R⁶₂N-C(NR⁶)-, R⁷S(O)₂NH, CN, NO₂, R⁶C(O)-, N₃, -N(R⁶)₂, or R⁷OC(O)NR⁶-,
- unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl,
- substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl wherein the substituent on the substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl is selected from unsubstituted or substituted aryl, unsubstituted or substituted heterocyclic, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, R⁶O-, R⁷S(O)₂NH, R⁶C(O)NR⁶-, (R⁶)₂NC(O)-, R⁶₂N-C(NR⁶)-, CN, R⁶C(O)-, N₃, -N(R⁶)₂, and R⁷OC(O)-NR⁶-; or

R¹ and R² are combined to form $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein one of the carbon atoms is optionally replaced by a moiety selected from: O, S(O)_m, -NC(O)-, NH and -N(COR⁷)- ;

R^{1a} is C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxylated C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, polyhydroxylated C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxylated aryl, polyhydroxylated aryl or aryl,

R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from: hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxylated C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, polyhydroxylated C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxylated aryl, polyhydroxylated aryl and aryl, or

one R³ and one R⁴ are combined to form a $-(CH_2)_w-$, which is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two substituents selected from OH and C₁-C₆ alkyl; or

an R³ is combined with another R³ on the same carbon to form a $-(CH_2)_x-$; or

an R⁴ is combined with another R⁴ on the same carbon to form a $-(CH_2)_x-$;

R⁵ is selected from OH and C₁-C₆ alkyl;

R⁶ is selected from: hydrogen, aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, C₁-C₆ alkyl and C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl;

R⁷ is selected from: aryl, substituted aryl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, C₁-C₆ alkyl and C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl;

R⁹ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₃ alkyl)-CO, or chlorosubstituted (C₁-C₃ alkyl)-CO;

n is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

p is zero or an integer between 1 and 100;

q is 0 or 1, provided that if p is zero, q is 1;
r is 1, 2 or 3;
s is 4, 5 or 6;
t is 3 or 4;
u and v are independently selected from: 0, 1, 2 or 3;
w is 2, 3 or 4;
x is 3, 4 or 5;
y is 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (original) The conjugate according to Claim 5 wherein:
oligopeptide is an oligomer that comprises an amino acid sequence selected from:

- a) AsnLysIleSerTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 1),
- b) LysIleSerTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 2),
- c) AsnLysIleSerTyrTyr|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 3),
- d) AsnLysAlaSerTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 4),
- e) SerTyrGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 5);
- f) LysTyrGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 6);
- g) hArgTyrGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 7);
- h) hArgChaGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 8);
- i) TyrGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 9);
- j) TyrGln|SerLeu (SEQ.ID.NO.: 10);

- k) TyrGln|SerNle (SEQ.ID.NO.: 11);
- l) ChgGln|SerLeu (SEQ.ID.NO.: 12);
- m) ChgGln|SerNle (SEQ.ID.NO.: 13);
- n) SerTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 14);
- o) SerChgGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 15);
- p) SerTyrGln|SerVal (SEQ.ID.NO.: 16);
- q) SerChgGln|SerVal (SEQ.ID.NO.: 17);
- r) SerTyrGln|SerLeu (SEQ.ID.NO.: 18);
- s) SerChgGln|SerLeu (SEQ.ID.NO.: 19);
- t) HaaXaaSerTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 20);
- u) HaaXaaLysTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 21);
- v) HaaXaaHArgTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 22);
- w) HaaXaaHArgChaGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 23);
- x) HaaTyrGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 24);
- y) HaaXaaSerChgGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 25);
- z) HaaChgGln|Ser (SEQ.ID.NO.: 26);

- aa) SerChgGln|SerSer (SEQ.ID.NO.: 106);
- bb) SerChgGln|SerPro (SEQ.ID.NO.: 107); and
- cc) SerChgGln|SerAbu (SEQ.ID.NO.: 108);

wherein Haa is a cyclic amino acid substituted with a hydrophilic moiety, hArg is homoarginine, Xaa is any amino acid, Cha is cyclohexylalanine, Abu is 2-aminobutyric acid and Chg is cyclohexylglycine;

or an optical isomer thereof.

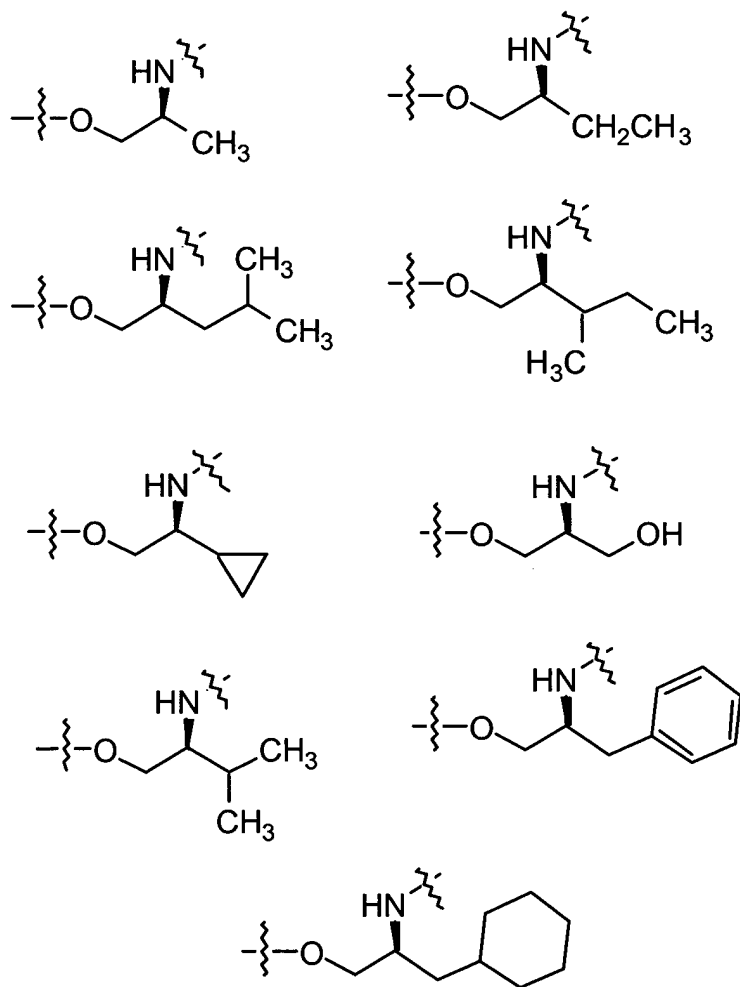
7. (original) The conjugate according to Claim 6 wherein:

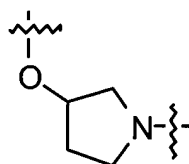
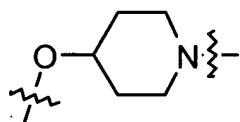
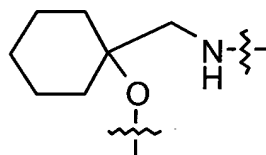
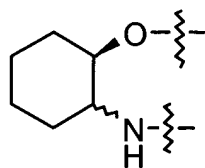
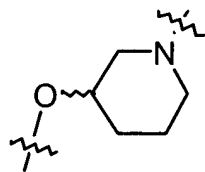
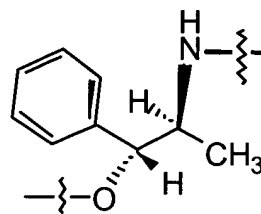
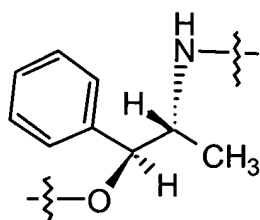
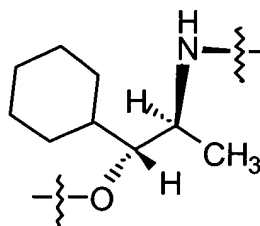
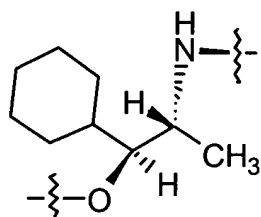
Xaa is alanine, serine or isoleucine; and
Haa is *trans*-4-hydroxy-L-proline;

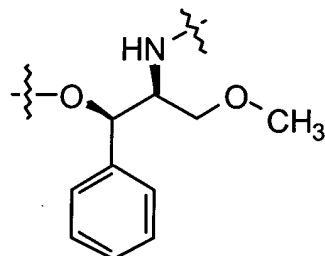
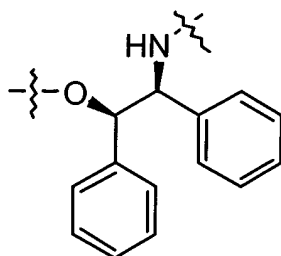
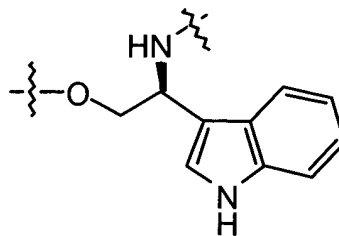
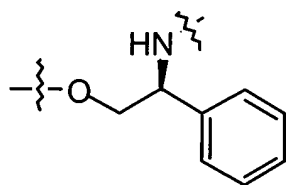
or an optical isomer thereof.

8. (original) The conjugate according to Claim 5 wherein:

X_L is selected from the following group:







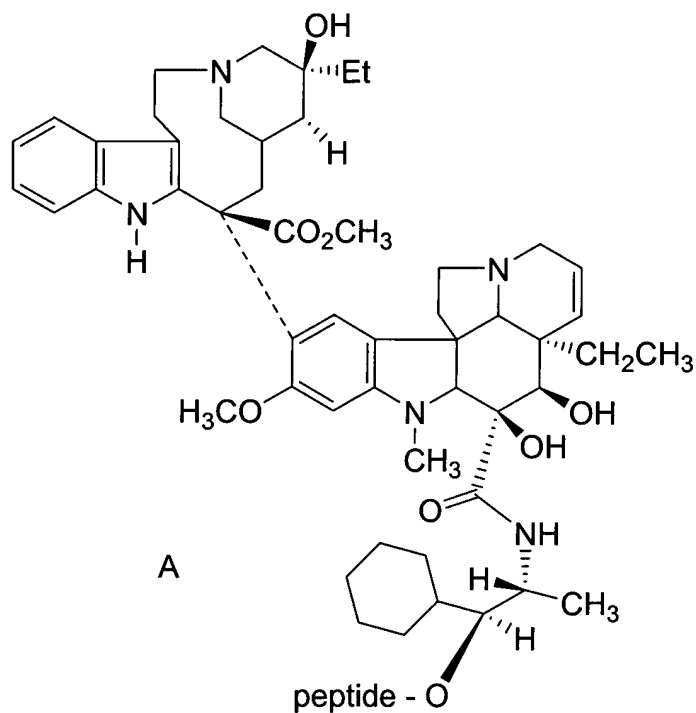
or an optical isomer thereof.

9. (original) The conjugate according to Claim 5 which is selected from:

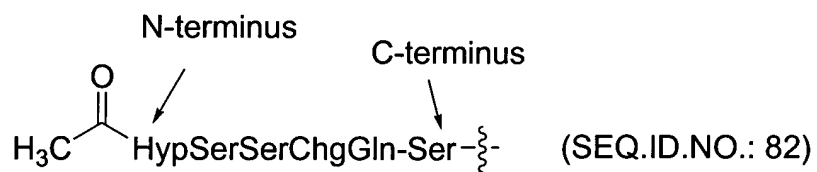
<u>PEPTIDE-VIN CONJUGATE</u>	<u>SEQ. ID.NO.</u>
Ac-(4-trans-L-Hyp)SSChgQ-SPheol-(dAc)-VIN	90
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQS-cyclopropylalaninol-(dAc)-VIN	91
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQS-cyclohexylalaninol-(dAc)-VIN	92
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQS-valinol-(dAc)-VIN	93
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQS-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN TFA salt	82
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQS-O-3(R)pyrrolidine-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	82
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQ-SS-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	83
N-hydroxyacetyl-AbuSSChgQ-SP-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	85
Ac-SSChgQ-SP-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	86
Ac-AbuSSChgQ-SP-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	84
Ac-SChgQ-SP-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	94
Ac-AbuSChgQ-SP-(HCAP)-(dAc)-VIN	95
Ac-SChgQSS-Sar-(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	96
Ac-SChgQS-Abu-(HCAP)-VIN	97
Ac-SChgQ-SS(4-trans-L-Hyp)-(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	98
Ac-SChgQSS(PIP)-(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	99
Ac-SChgQSS(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	100
Ac-SChgQSS-gammaAbu-(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	101
Ac-4-trans-L-HypSSChgQSP(HCAP)-VIN	102
Ac-SSChgQ-SSP-(HCAP)-dAc-VIN	103
Ac-SChgQ-SSP-(HCAP)-VIN	104
Ac-AbuSSChgQ-S-(HCAP)-VIN	105

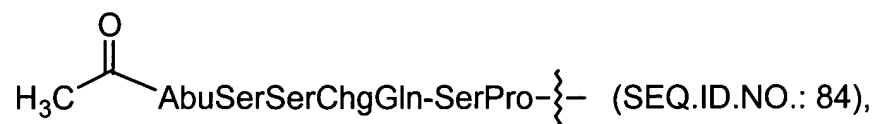
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or optical isomer thereof.

10. (amended) A compound of the formula A ~~which is selected~~
from:

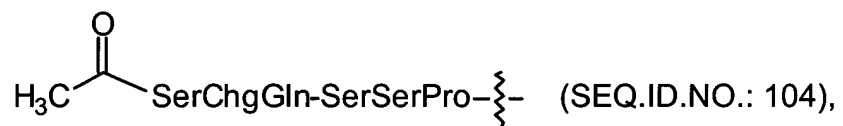
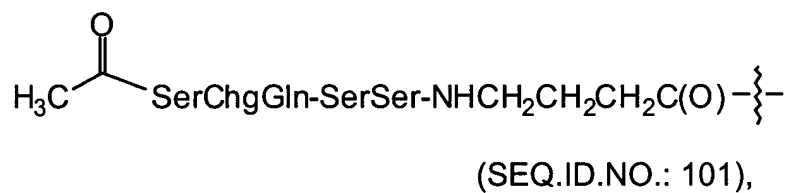


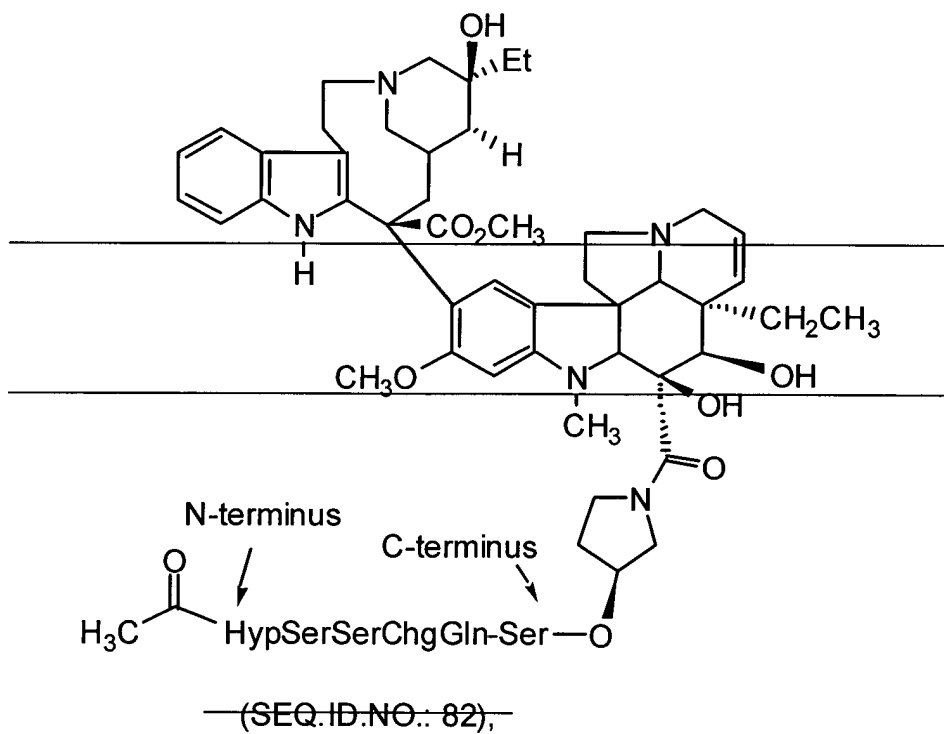
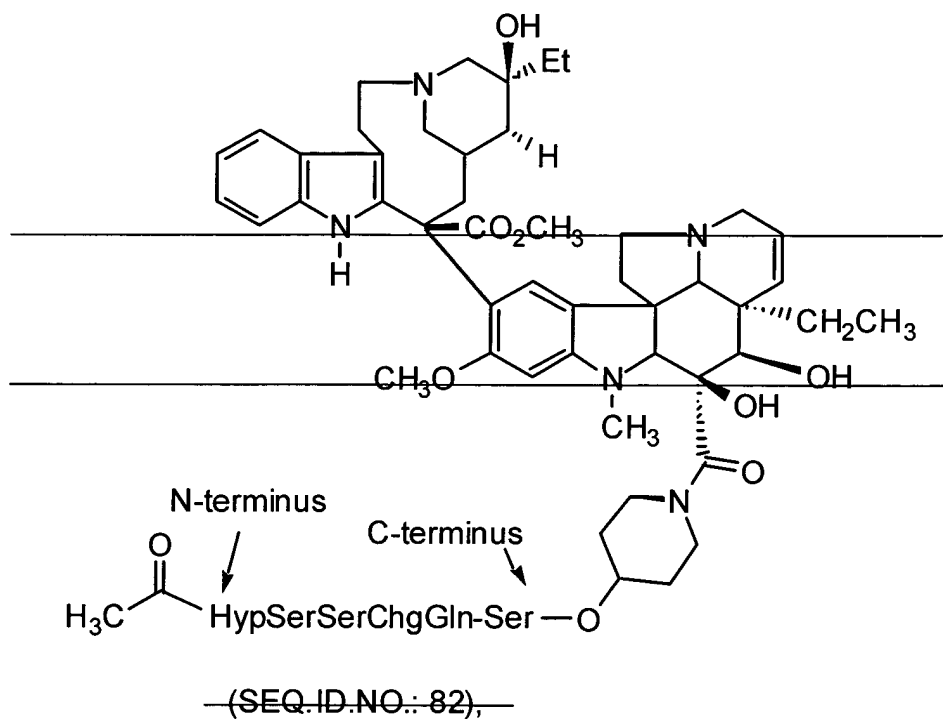
wherein peptide is selected from:





peptide





or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or optical isomer thereof.

11. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutical carrier, and dispersed therein, a therapeutically effective amount of a conjugate compound of Claim 1.

12. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutical carrier, and dispersed therein, a therapeutically effective amount of a conjugate compound of Claim 5.

13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutical carrier, and dispersed therein, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 10.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition made by combining the conjugate compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

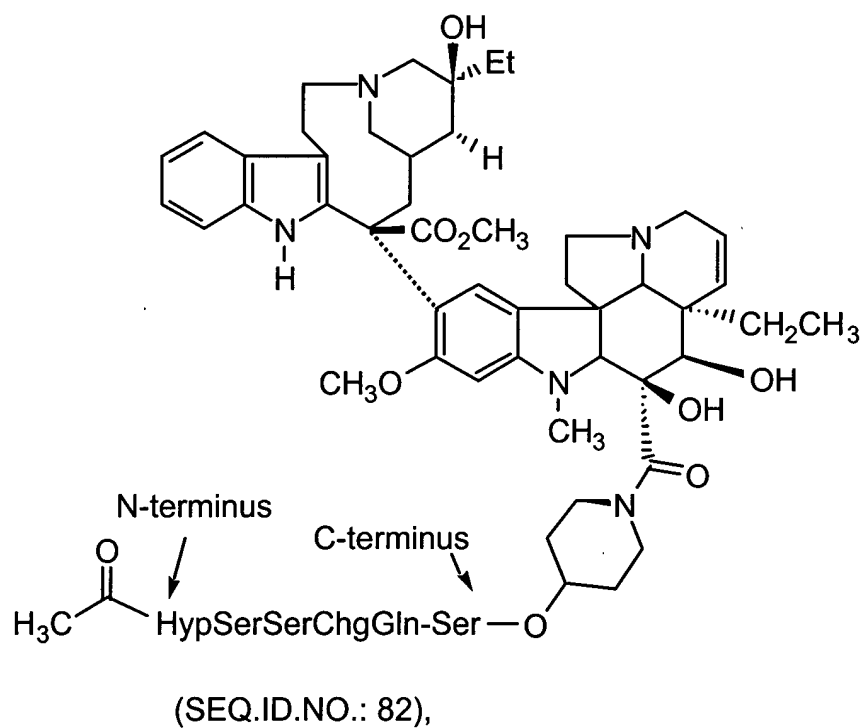
22. (canceled)

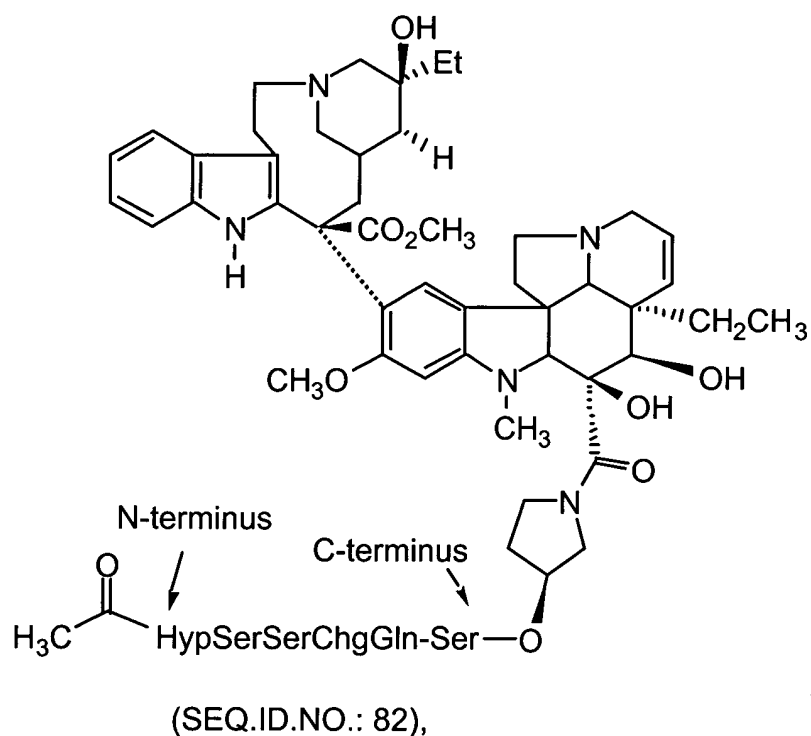
23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (new) The compound according to Claim 5 selected from:





or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or optical isomer thereof.